· AUSTRALIA $1.50 · CANADA $1.50 · FRANCE 1.00 EURO · ICELAND KR100 · NEW ZEALAND $1.50 · SWEDEN KR10 · UK £.50 · U.S. $1.00

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 70/NO. 42 NOVEMBER 6, 2006

INSIDE

How working people in Korea defeated U.S. forces in 1950s war

—PAGE 8

7-city tour in Cuba promotes book by three Chinese-Cuban generals

Hundreds attend events across island

Militant/Martín Koppel

Audience at October 20 presentation of the book *Our History Is Still Being Written* in Santiago de Cuba. In attendance were numerous leaders of the Cuban Communist Party and the provincial and municipal governments, members of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution, Chinese-Cuban residents of the city, cadets at the José Maceo Military School, and members of several mass organizations.

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL AND DAVID ARGÜELLO

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, October 21—Some 250 people filled the main hall of the historic municipal government building here October 20 to hear a panel of speakers, including Gen. Moisés Sío Wong, present *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Cuban-Chinese Generals in the Cuban Revolution*.

Among those attending were members of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution, Chinese-Cuban residents of Santiago, cadets at the José Maceo Military School, municipal workers, and members of several mass organizations in the city, from the Federation of University Students to the Cuban Women's Federation. Misael Enamorado, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party in Santiago province, and Rolando Yero, president of the provincial People's Power, were among the numerous party and government leaders present.

It was from the balcony of the munici-

Continued on page 7

UCLA panel in L.A. to discuss book on Chinese-Cubans in Cuban Revolution

BY CHRIS REMPLE

LOS ANGELES—A panel discussion on the book *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution* will be held November 8 at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) campus here. It is sponsored by the Asians in the Americas Working Group; *Amerasia Journal,* published by UCLA's Asian American Studies Center Press; the UCLA Department of Asian American Studies; the Asian American Studies Center; and Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research.

The book tells the story of three generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces, who, in the 1950s, as young rebels of Chinese ancestry, threw themselves into the revolutionary war that brought down a U.S.-backed dictatorship and opened the door to the first socialist revolution in the Americas. The three generals explain the historic place of Chinese immigration to Cuba, as well as more than five decades of revolutionary struggle and internationalism from Cuba to Angola, Nicaragua, and Venezuela today.

Clara Chu, a professor at UCLA's Department of Information Studies and a member of the Department of Asian American Studies, and Mary-Alice Waters, the book's editor, will be among the

Continued on page 2

Washington leads drive to enforce harsh sanctions against north Korea

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

October 24—U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice toured China, Japan, Russia, and south Korea last week to solidify Washington's "coalition of the willing" to threaten militarily and squeeze economically the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Rice tried to win compliance from these governments with an October 14 United Nations Security Council resolution calling for cargo "inspections" and instituting other harsh sanctions against north Korea. Washington introduced the resolution after the DPRK announced October 8 it had conducted a nuclear arms test.

After winning a unanimous vote for the resolution, U.S. assistant secretary of state Christopher Hill said, "The issue… is how to make sure countries interpret it

Continued on page 9

Vote Socialist Workers

U.S. hands off Korea! Lift sanctions!

Troops out of Iraq, Afghanistan now!

Unionize all workers! Legalize immigrants!

Militant/Matilda Hernández-Miyares

Militant/Sylvia Hansen

Militant/Tom Baumann

Vote Socialist Workers Party! Vote for the SWP candidates where they are on the ballot and write their names in where they've been excluded. That's what we urge our readers to do November 7.

The Socialist Workers Party is fielding 53 candidates in 13 U.S. states and the District of Columbia this fall. These candidates offer a working-class alternative to the twin parties of U.S. imperialism—the Democrats and Republicans—and other capitalist parties.

EDITORIAL

The socialists are presenting a revolutionary working-class program in the U.S. to reach out to our sisters and brothers around the world in order to strengthen the struggle against our common enemies—the imperialist aggressors and capitalist exploiters the world over.

The socialists have been calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and other "coalition" troops from Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans, Colombia, and Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. They have been saying: "U.S. hands off Korea! Lift the sanctions! All U.S. troops and weapons out of the Korean peninsula! Reunification of Korea!" They have

Continued on page 9

Socialist Workers Party candidates in 2006. Top: Róger Calero and Maura DeLuca for U.S. Senate and governor in New York. Middle: David Arguello (forefront) for U.S. Congress, 51st District, and James Harris for governor in California. Bottom: Rebecca Williamson for U.S. Senate in Minnesota.

Goodyear strikers confront scabs and win solidarity

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

LINCOLN, Nebraska, October 22—Chanting "One day longer," 300 strikers rallied outside the Goodyear plant here today. About 560 members of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 286 struck this plant October 5. They are part of the 15,000 Goodyear workers who walked out at 12 U.S. and 4 Canadian plants.

With pickets up around the clock, strikers are keeping warm by burning wood and staying inside tents. "We've gotten fantastic solidarity from the community," said Ron Voboril, a shop steward. "We're seeing all kinds of food, wood, honking from supporters, as well as union people joining the pickets." Voboril and

Continued on page 3

Best week yet in 'Militant' sub drive

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

More than 260 people subscribed to the *Militant* last week, the best week yet of the circulation drive. Building on this momentum, supporters of the paper are organizing an all-out effort the next two weeks to meet the international goal of 2,600 readers by November 7. Here are a few notes from supporters of the paper.

"Over the last week, we campaigned with the *Militant*, responding to the U.S.-

Continued on page 4

Also Inside:

Washington maps plans to press war in Iraq 2

UCLA students rally for affirmative action 3

Immigrants working in coal mines strengthen union 4

U.S. drought ravages working farmers nationwide 5

Washington maps plans to press war in Iraq

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, October 22—U.S. president George Bush mapped plans to press the war in Iraq at a White House conference with top administration and military officials here.

Just two days earlier a top U.S. general said that a two-month operation by 15,000 U.S. troops had failed to stem a spike in killings resulting from factional fighting among bourgeois forces vying for a bigger share of power.

Nearly 2,800 U.S. troops have been killed in the war since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, according to the Pentagon, as well as some 120 British soldiers. Total "coalition" deaths exceed 3,000. The estimated death toll among Iraqis, civilian and military, is much higher, exceeding 14,000 this year alone, according to press reports, with nearly half occurring in August and September.

In another development, the Iraqi parliament approved a controversial "federalism" law October 11 that will allow provinces to join together and form autonomous regions. The law is not to be implemented for 18 months.

The measure was approved by a slim margin, with 140 of the 275 members of parliament voting for it. Members of parliament loyal to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, and Fadhila, a split-off from al-Sadr's movement, joined wealthy Sunnis in boycotting the vote. A bloc of Shiite and Kurdish parties hold a majority in Iraq's coalition government.

Al-Sadr's supporters fought fierce battles with U.S. troops in southern Iraq in 2004. His movement is now part of the ruling Shiite bloc, known as the United Iraqi Alliance (UIA), and heads several ministries in the U.S.-backed regime.

A regional government in southern Iraq would be dominated by al-Sadr's Shiite rivals, the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) and al-Dawah, the two largest parties in the UIA. The rivalry between al-Sadr and SCIRI burst into open fighting October 19-20, when 200-300 of Sadr's Mahdi militia attacked two police stations in Amarah, southern Iraq. The police there are said to be aligned with the Badr Brigade, a SCIRI militia.

Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff, said October 11 the Army plans to maintain current U.S. troop levels in Iraq, now at 138,000, "to have enough ammo in the magazine that I can continue to shoot as long as they want us to shoot."

The day after his remarks, Australian premier John Howard said Canberra, with 900 troops in Iraq, would stand with Washington and not "cut and run."

UK's top military officer, Gen. Richard Dannatt, "clarified" remarks he had made that the 7,000 British troops should withdraw from Iraq so metime soon. "We are not on the run; we are not hauling our colors down," he said.

Protesters in N.Y.: 'Legalize immigrants now!'

Militant/Paul Pederson

NEW YORK—About 1,000 people rallied at Union Square Park in Manhattan and then marched to Times Square October 21. The protesters demanded legalization for all undocumented immigrants and an end to deportations. They also opposed the wall that Washington is expanding along the U.S.-Mexico border. Dozens of immigrant rights, community, and other organizations sponsored the action.

U.S. events to promote book by Chinese-Cuban generals

Continued from front page

the panelists. Also on the panel will be Eugene Moy, vice president of programs of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. Nobuko Miyamoto, founder and artistic director of the group Great Leap, will sing and perform. Russell Leong, editor of *Amerasia Journal,* will chair the program.

The panel discussion will begin at 7:00 p.m. (see ad on p. 3). It will be preceded by a reception, starting at 6:30 p.m., sponsored by the *Amerasia Journal*. The Asians in the Americas Working Group, which works "to develop a new way of understanding Asian migration to Canada, the United States, and Latin America," will hold an organizing meeting just prior to the event at 5:30 p.m.

The panel discussion is being publicized at UCLA and other area campuses, as well as in the Chinese and other Asian-American communities, and throughout the city.

❖

BY ERNEST MAILHOT

CHICAGO—The second National Asian American Student Conference (NAASC) will be held November 3–5 at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Organizers say the conference will build on a previous event, the Asian Pacific American Student Conference, held in Los Angeles in 2004. "By hosting the conference in the Midwest, a thriving region for APAs [Asian Pacific Americans], NAASC in 2006 seeks to revitalize and mobilize Asian America," the organizers say.

The opening day will feature keynote speaker Vijay Prashad, an author and professor of South Asian history and director of International Studies at Trinity College in Connecticut.

Workshops will be held November 4. Topics range from "Immigration, Race & Rights" to "Vietnamese Americans in New Orleans East Return Home," "The New Immigrant Rights Movement," and "Environmental Justice."

One workshop will present the book *Our History Is Still Being Written*. Mary-Alice Waters, the book's editor, will speak, along with students, including Amy Gao and Jason Eng from Northwestern. Gao is an executive board member of the Model United Nations and Eng chairs the Asian American Pacific Coalition at Northwestern.

About 140 students, teachers, and others attended the annual Asian Pacific Conference at Minnesota State University in Mankato, Minnesota, October 19–21. They discussed the history of oppression of Asian Americans and how to fight anti-Asian discrimination today. Students came from Minnesota and Iowa. The keynote speech was by Erika Lee, professor of history at the University of Minnesota and author of *At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration during the Exclusion Era, 1882–1943.*

Tom Fiske from St. Paul, Minnesota, contributed to this article.

THE MILITANT

The truth about the Cuban Revolution

The 'Militant' tells the truth about Cuba, including first-hand reports. It describes how the Cuban people and their communist leadership set a revolutionary example by linking defense of their own sovereignty and socialist conquests at home to the advance of popular struggles elsewhere. Don't miss a single issue!

Presentation of *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*, at Havana Book Fair, February 2006.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

❑ $5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

❑ $10 for 12 weeks

❑ $20 for 6 months

❑ $35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION PHONE

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A$8 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can$6 • Caribbean and Latin America, $10 • Continental Europe, £12 • France, 12 Euros • Iceland, Kr500 • New Zealand, NZ$7 • Sweden, Kr60 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 70/No. 42

Closing news date: October 25, 2006

Editor and circulation director: Argiris Malapanis

Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel

Editorial volunteers: David Argüello, Róger Calero, Martín Koppel, Olympia Newton, Paul Pederson, and Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January and two weeks in June.
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.
Telephone: (212) 244-4899
Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: for one-year send $35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send $65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first class (airmail), send $80.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send $65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian $45 for one-year subscription to the Militant, 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON. Postal Code: M6R 3A9.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 75 euros for one-year subscription to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Iceland: Send 4,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to the Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: Send 400 Swedish kronor for one year to Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

UCLA students rally for affirmative action

BY EMILY PAUL

LOS ANGELES, October 18—More than 100 students rallied at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) campus here today, on National Take Affirmative Action day.

Students formed a human link and wore signs around their necks saying, "Ask me," to spark dialogue. They followed this by a rally with the participation of a number of student organizations, including the African Student Union, Asian Pacific Coalition, and the Chicano student organization MeChA. A popular chant was, "What do we want? Diversity. When do we want it? Now."

The event was organized by the Admissions Coalition, which is made up of different student groups. The coalition's aim is to reverse the low numbers of students of oppressed nationalities admitted at this campus.

Of the 4,852 students admitted this fall only 96, or 2 percent, are Black—that is out of a pool of 1,900 African American applicants this year. This is the smallest enrollment of African American students since at least 1973, according to a research report by the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA.

Over the past decade, since the implementation of Proposition 209 in 1996 that banned affirmative action in hiring and admissions at state institutions, the number of African American undergraduates at UCLA has plummeted by 65 percent. Admissions of students who are Black at UC Berkeley, the other major University of California campus, have dropped by 50 percent in the same period.

Militant/Emily Paul

Students rally for affirmative action at UCLA, October 18.

Admission of Chicano, Latino, and Native American students has also declined in the last decade. Students of underrepresented nationalities—Black, Chicano, Latino, and Native American—make up 14.3 percent of this year's freshman class at the 10 University of California campuses.

"UCLA prides itself on being a diverse university but I don't see it as reflective of California or Los Angeles," said Rhommel Canare, a UCLA student. "When they say that UCLA is a diverse campus, it's not."

The Bruin Republicans set up an anti–affirmative action bake sale near today's event. Their action received front-page coverage in the *Daily Bruin*, the student newspaper at UCLA, the next day, while the rally supporting affirmative action was not covered.

Goodyear strikers confront scabs, win solidarity

Continued from front page

other strikers said firefighters, Teamsters, gas workers, and others have joined the pickets since the strike began. "Earlier this week two strikers from the plant in Topeka visited the lines," said Voboril.

Only one worker has crossed the line.

Workers here are digging in for a long strike. No negotiations have taken place since the strike began. Pickets report that the company has brought in strikebreakers from their nonunion hydraulic hose plant in Norfolk, Nebraska, to keep some production going.

This year the tire giant moved their hose production to Mexico. Now the main product made at this plant is rubber belts. Goodyear is planning to close plants in Alabama and Texas, cut wages by as much as 40 percent, and do away with retiree medical coverage. The union calls these proposals "cut and gut."

When Goodyear threatened bankruptcy in 2003, the union agreed to cuts in wages, pensions, and health care. The company's sales rebounded to a record-breaking $19.5 billion last year.

❖

BY JOHN STEELE AND MICHEL PRAIRIE

COLLINGWOOD, Ontario—There were cheers on the Goodyear picket line here October 21 when a vanload of USW Local 9403 members arrived for a solidarity rally. The unionists work at Flexingate, a car jack manufacturer in Tottenham. "We're here to give the Goodyear strikers our support," said Local 9403 chief steward Bonnie Mcleod. "They deserve it for standing up to the company."

Members of USW Local 252G from the Pilkington Glass plant here joined the picket line.

The same fighting spirit was present on the Goodyear picket line at an automotive belt plant in Owen Sound that day. Strikers there reported that about 400 Goodyear workers at a plant in Medicine Hat, Alberta, just voted 95 percent to give their bargaining committee a strike mandate and may join the walkout. There are 400 Goodyear strikers in Canada at four plants.

Strikers here said the company is trying to maintain production of hoses for cars with management and office personnel.

"We won't work for $12 an hour, so we're going to keep fighting," said Jennifer Malcolm, a member of USW Local 834 here in Collingwood. The average hourly pay is now Can$18. Strikers said the bosses are demanding two-tier wages.

❖

BY BILL ARTH

FAYETTEVILLE, North Carolina, October 21—The picket line of over a dozen members of USW Local 959 here swelled to nearly 100 today as several hundred strikebreakers began their exit from the Goodyear tire plant. Goodyear is attempting to run the plant, which produces replacement tires, with about 300 salaried personnel and about 120 hourly workers who have crossed the picket line.

The strikers lined both sides of the street and greeted the departure of the strikebreakers, escorted by the police, with shouts of "One day longer," "No justice, no peace," and "Scab."

North Carolina is a state with an anti-union "right to work" law. According to USW members, about 90 percent of the 1,900 hourly workers in the plant are union members.

Strikers said the union held a rally at the union hall October 19 and then a mass picket as the strikebreakers left the plant. Nearly 1,000 strikers lined both sides of the street that day to greet those who had crossed the picket line, workers said.

❖

BY SETH DELLINGER

DANVILLE, Virginia, October 21—"There's 2,200 of us on strike. Only one has crossed," said James Coles, captain of a USW Local 831 picket line outside the Goodyear tire plant here today.

Protecting retirees' medical coverage is a main reason for the strike, Coles said. "When the rubber is on the mill, it gives off a lot of smoke which can tax your lungs. But sometimes it won't affect you for 10 or 20 years. You might have a problem five years after you retire."

"I've never seen demands like these," added Mike Elsberry, referring to Goodyear's contract proposals. Elsberry is a mill operator employed by Goodyear for 30 years, including 23 years at the Gadsden, Alabama, plant. But given the recent attacks by the bosses in the auto and airline industries, "The handwriting was on the wall," he said.

Elsberry said that one of Goodyear's demands is to employ a "contingent workforce" at $11 an hour with no benefits and part-time hours. Most workers here earn $20–24 an hour.

❖

BY TONY DUTROW AND STEVE WARSHELL

TYLER, Texas—"This isn't my day on the roster but I come out two or three times a day if I can," said striker Tommy Benson October 21. "They tell us: Give, give, and give. This is where we draw the line with Goodyear."

The round-the-clock pickets also have been getting reinforcements from other unionists, family, and friends.

"Goodyear says we make $103,000 a year—average pay!" said Rick Shields, a millright. "Sometimes we're forced to work six or seven days a week, even then we average about $45,000 a year. They never mention the $32 million the bosses got in bonuses."

"The average life expectancy is only five years after retirement for us here, and there are signs around the plant warning us of all the cancer-causing conditions," said Baylen Sessions, who has worked here nine years. "But they don't do anything about it! For us this fight is serious because we're fighting for our union here."

Tom Baumann from Minneapolis and Paul Mailhot from Birmingham, Alabama, reported that similar solidarity activities took place at the picket line at the Goodyear plants in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, and Gadsden, Alabama.

Garment workers in Scotland strike for wage increase

BY XERARDO ARIAS

COATBRIDGE, Scotland, October 18—"It wasn't until we went on strike that I got to know many workers in other departments, " said John Clark, a knitting machine operator on strike against Mackinnon Mill here. "This action has brought us closer together."

Today was the sixth day of picketing at this mill near Glasgow. Workers are striking for a 2.5 percent pay increase. The bosses have refused to offer any raise.

The 110 members of the Community trade union began their protests September 28. They are now striking two days a week, and are into the fourth week of actions. At the union's branch (local) meeting last week, workers voted to give notice of strike dates for another two months.

Alison McCaughie, a member of the strike committee, said the bosses have taken out an interim interdict (a court order limiting picketing) against the strikers. The company claims that picketing outside the mill's front gate, which is also the entrance to its retail store, is illegal. Picketing there has generated support from other workers and customers, strikers said.

Management has sent all workers a letter stating that they should only use a side entrance for coming to and from work, furthering their claim that the workers are not picketing the plant.

McCaughie said the bosses have also begun disciplinary proceedings against four strikers. The union is protesting these proceedings, she said.

—*MILITANT LABOR FORUMS*—

IOWA

Des Moines

Socialist Workers 2006 Campaign Rally Speakers: SWP candidates in Iowa. Sat., Nov. 4. Dinner, 5:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. *3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 255-1707.*

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Support the Socialist Workers 2006 Campaign! Speakers: Osborne Hart, SWP candidate for governor; John Staggs, SWP candidate for State House. Sat., Nov. 4. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner, $5 program. *188 W. Wyoming Ave. Tel. (215) 455-2682.*

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

The Pacific Forum Meeting: N.Z., Australia hands off the Solomon Islands! Speaker: Janet Roth. Fri., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. Donation: $3. *7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu (upstairs, above Laundromat). Tel.: (09) 276-8885.*

—*CALENDAR*—

Our History Is Still Being Written

The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution

Panel discussion and reception

Wed., November 8, 7:00 p.m.

Refreshments served at 6:30 p.m.

UCLA Department of Information Studies. GSE&IS Bldg., Room 111

(On the corner of Royce Dr. and Charles E. Young Dr. North)

Panelists: **Mary-Alice Waters**, president of Pathfinder Press and editor of *Our History Is Still Being Written*; **Clara M. Chu**, Associate Professor, Department of Information Studies and Department of Asian-American Studies, UCLA; and **Nobuko Miyamoto**, Founder and Artistic Director, Great Leap

Facilitator: **Russell Leong**, editor, *Amerasia Journal*

Sponsors: Asians in the Americas Working Group, Amerasia Journal*, Dept. of Asian American Studies, So. Cal. Library for Social Studies and Research, and UCLA Asian American Studies Center*

Immigrants in coal mines strengthen union

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

An article in the September 15 *Charleston Daily Mail*, headlined, "Illegals in coal mines spark disagreement," said, "Officials with the United Mine Workers of America say the problem of illegal immigrants working in West Virginia coal mines is becoming more prevalent."

It reported that an "illegal immigrant," who was charged with hitting a child with a pick-up truck while driving drunk, "has brought the issue to the forefront of talks about safety in the state's mines." The worker, originally from Mexico, works at a mining repair machine shop.

UNION TALK

"We had heard this had been going on, that there were problems with it more and more," UMWA communications director Phil Smith was quoted as saying in the article. "I don't know that anybody can put a finger on how many mines this is happening in, but we're guessing this is a problem we're probably going to be seeing a lot more of unless we address it."

A growing number of immigrants working in the mines, however, is not a problem for coal miners but a source of potential strength.

The most significant working-class struggles in the United States recently have been led by immigrants, largely from Mexico and Central America, many of whom are undocumented. Last spring, millions of immigrant workers and their supporters marched across the country demanding legalization for all. On May 1, the first multi-city general political strike in U.S. history took place, with two million workers refusing to work and joining actions in dozens of cities and small towns. This had a positive impact on the entire working class.

These developments confirmed that the historic influx of immigrant labor in recent decades has irreversibly strengthened the U.S. working class. Workers and farmers are driven to immigrate by grinding economic conditions in countries dominated by imperialism. But immigrants are not suffering victims. They are fellow workers who bring their class-struggle experiences, help broaden the horizons of their co-workers, and themselves shed prejudices about U.S.-born workers in the process.

"There are plenty of people in southern West Virginia and Kentucky who would be willing to take those jobs," Smith said. "When you start bringing folks who are willing to work for lower wages, that causes a problem for everybody when it comes to pay."

It is not immigrant workers, however, who are responsible for lowering wages. It is the bosses who benefit from anti-labor laws aimed at keeping immigrant workers as "illegals" so they will be intimidated from standing up for their rights or organizing a union. The employers want immigrants to come to this country to have a section of our class that's superexploited, and to keep working people divided by promoting the myth that Mexicans or other immigrants take away "American" jobs.

Under capitalism, competition for jobs reigns. A constant influx of immigrant labor *does* lower wages, *if* the union movement doesn't take the initiative to embrace all workers and back any struggles to unionize workers, native- and foreign-born.

During the miners' struggle to organize the Co-Op mine in Utah the UMWA took the side of the 75 coal miners, most of them immigrants from Mexico, who went on strike for 10 months to win UMWA representation in order to change abusive conditions and win livable wages and job safety. These workers inspired solidarity throughout the country and beyond and at a certain point posed the possibility of expanding the organization of western coal. Their steadfastness showed what can be done through working-class unity regardless of whether miners are born in the United States, Mexico, or other countries, or whether some are undocumented.

Forty-two miners have now been killed in U.S. coal mines this year, the most in any single year since 2001.

The latest fatality was 43-year-old Dale Russsell Reightler, who was killed in an October 23 explosion at an eastern Pennsylvania anthracite mine.

Thomas Channell Jr., 49, died October 20 at the Whitetail Kittanning mine in Preston County, West Virginia. He was killed when a massive rock broke from the rib, crushing him while he was operating a mining machine, said the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. The mine was cited for 320 safety violations this year alone, many for roof and wall collapses.

Similar deteriorating job conditions face miners in other countries.

A recent article in the *Post-Gazette* described the growth of *pocitos* in the northern state of Coahuila, Mexico's only coal mining region. A miner goes into these holes, some 30 feet straight into the ground, to dig for coal, while others hoist buckets loaded with coal to the surface. The article described the pocitos as "minuscule mining outposts with no more than 20 workers and, until very recently, a reputation for bypassing even the most basic safety standards."

The pocitos sound like the mines that have opened up in eastern Kentucky along a thin seam of rare "blue gem" coal, used for making silicon. Joe Seay, operating a roof bolter in a blue-gem mine, was the 39th miner to be killed on the job this year, when a five-foot-long slab of rock fell on him. Extracting this coal is dangerous, with miners working in tunnels sometimes less than 19 inches high.

Militant/Guillermo Esquivel

Picket line at Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah, March 22, 2004, during strike by coal miners, many of them Mexican immigrants, to win UMWA representation.

With the price of coal remaining high, the bosses continue to speed up production, forcing miners to work in unsafe conditions. Most coal mines are nonunion. These conditions, similar in other industries and countries, pose the need to build a labor movement capable of fighting effectively against the bosses' assaults. This can only be done by seeing immigrant workers as our brothers and sisters, championing their demand to legalize all immigrants now, and making every effort to draw them into unionizing the mines and other workplaces.

Alyson Kennedy was a coal miner at the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah. She was part of the 10-month strike and two-year-long battle to organize the UMWA at that mine.

Best week yet in 'Militant' subscription drive

Continued from front page

organized threats against Korea, and sold 43 subscriptions," wrote Alyson Kennedy from New York. "We now have a shot at meeting our quota of 300. We did this by organizing sales teams every day and going throughout the city. Two teams in Harlem had a great response, selling five subs. Many African-Americans were attracted to the tables with the big sign 'U.S. Hands Off Korea!' One woman said, 'They should get their hands off everyone!' People in Harlem also welcomed the coverage on the Goodyear strike. An ironworker said he would bring it up at his union meeting and he subscribed on that basis.

"Two teams at Boricua College sold four more subs. We also sold three subs in Manhattan's Little Korea and at Koreatown in Flushing, Queens. A young Korean who subscribed in Little Korea made a sign in Korean for our table, saying: 'Reunification! U.S. troops out of Korea!', which attracted more attention."

"We concluded a very successful week," wrote Alasdair MacDonald from Sydney, Australia. "We used the issue with the SWP statement on solidarity with the Korean people and turned around our results, selling 9 subs and getting ahead."

"We sold 5 more subs in the Black community of Chester where there is an ongoing tug of war over the refusal of state and local officials to provide even the rudiments of education," wrote John Studer from Philadelphia, where *Militant* supporters increased their quota after selling 13 subs last week.

With similar efforts, selling the remaining 871 subscriptions in the next two weeks to meet the overall goal is not out of reach.

Fall 'Militant' Subscription Drive
Sept. 9 – Nov. 7 ♦ Week 6 of 8

Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh**	**55**	**48**	**87%**
London*	**100**	**86**	**86%**
UK Total	**155**	**134**	**86%**
SWEDEN	**37**	**30**	**81%**
AUSTRALIA	**50**	**40**	**80%**
NEW ZEALAND	**60**	**48**	**80%**
CANADA	**130**	**97**	**75%**
UNITED STATES			
Albany, NY	**20**	**15**	**75%**
Philadelphia*	**135**	**101**	**75%**
Houston	100	73	73%
Newark	150	110	73%
Boston	120	81	68%
San Francisco	75	51	68%
Birmingham	115	77	67%
Washington, DC	105	70	67%
Des Moines	175	116	66%
Chicago	100	64	64%
Atlanta	100	62	62%
New York	300	187	62%
Twin Cities	160	97	61%
Amherst, MA	10	6	60%
Miami	170	100	59%
Pittsburgh	60	34	57%
Seattle	80	43	54%
Los Angeles	145	72	50%
San Diego, CA	6	3	50%
Tampa, FL	10	5	50%
Detroit	10	4	40%
U.S. Total	2146	1371	64%
ICELAND	18	7	39%
OTHER		2	
Int'l totals	**2596**	**1729**	**67%**
Should be	**2600**	**1950**	**75%**

***increased quota (**twice)**

Militant Fund

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Militant supporters sent in $12,500 in week six of the eight-week fund drive. That leaves just over $33,000 to be sent in the next two weeks to meet the $90,000 goal to pay for reporting trips and operating costs.

The number of U.S. cities on target to make their quota increased from two to five this week as Des Moines, Birmingham, and San Francisco joined Washington D.C. and Boston, the only two on schedule last week.

Fundraising events are helping the campaign. Cindy Jacquith, a *Militant* correspondent in Iran during the Iranian revolution in 1979 and subsequent years, spoke October 21 at a forum in Atlanta on "The Middle East, Capitalism's World Disorder, and Prospects for Revolutionary Change." The event raised most of the $1,100 sent in from Atlanta last week.

At an event in Seattle the same day, at which Tom Leonard, a longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party and former merchant seaman during World War II, spoke, over $900 in contributions and new pledges were raised.

Please send contributions to the *Militant* at the address listed on page 2.

$90,000 'Militant' Fund Drive
Sept. 9 –Nov. 7 ♦ Week 6 of 8

Country	Quota	Paid	%
AUSTRALIA	**1,200**	**940**	**78%**
NEW ZEALAND	2,500	1,632	65%
UNITED STATES			
Washington, D.C.	**2,800**	**2,268**	**81%**
San Francisco*	**9,000**	**6,999**	**78%**
Birmingham	**3,500**	**2,709**	**77%**
Des Moines	**2,200**	**1,667**	**76%**
Boston	**3,500**	**2,649**	**76%**
Atlanta	5,500	3,960	72%
Philadelphia*	4,000	2,741	69%
New York	13,000	8,813	68%
Miami	2,500	1,662	66%
Los Angeles	8,200	4,525	55%
Chicago	5,000	2,448	49%
Newark	3,500	1,710	49%
Seattle	7,000	3,300	47%
Pittsburgh	4,200	1,707	41%
Houston	3,200	1,300	41%
Twin Cities	4,800	1,880	39%
Amherst	60	20	33%
Detroit	1,200	25	2%
Albany	120	0	0%
San Diego	50	0	0%
OTHER		500	
U.S. total	83,330	50,883	61%
CANADA	3,500	2,025	58%
FRANCE	250	137	55%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	1,300	640	49%
Edinburgh	500	60	12%
UK total	1,800	700	39%
ICELAND	450	367	37%
SWEDEN	500	85	17%
Intl'l totals	**93,530**	**56,769**	**63%**
Goal/Should be	**90,000**	**67,500**	**75%**

***raised goal**

U.S. drought ravages working farmers

Gov't aid goes to wealthiest capitalist growers, ranchers

BY KARL BUTTS

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—Working farmers in many U.S. states this year are facing the devastating combination of drought conditions and increasing costs of production. While capitalist politicians have campaigned around offers of "drought assistance" and other aid, most of these funds end up in the coffers of the wealthiest capitalist farmers and landlords.

"This is the most expensive crop I've grown, and it looks like it's going to be the worst crop I've ever harvested," Alabama cotton farmer Bob Luker told local media, referring to the doubling of his costs for diesel fuel, electricity, and fertilizer. In the last year, the price of a ton of fertilizer leapt from $150 to more than $320.

The Alabama Farmers Association predicted that up to 75 percent of corn and 50 percent of cotton crops would be lost to the high temperatures and low rainfall. Alabama's largest row crop, cotton, is considered a failure, according to Jeff Thompson of Autauga Quality Cotton Association.

Farmers and ranchers in more than 60 percent of the country faced abnormally dry or drought conditions this year, from Georgia to Arizona in the south and from Montana to Wisconsin in the north. Ranked as the third worst drought on record, it is the continuation of an ongoing weather cycle that began in 1999.

In north-central South Dakota, where the temperature reached 120 degrees this summer, an estimated 90 percent of the natural watering holes dried up.

Parts of Texas experienced a 16-month dry spell with 29 days of temperatures over 100 degrees. Officials estimated $4 billion in losses or double that of the 1998 drought, according to an August 14 National Public Radio report.

Many farmers in affected areas are salvaging their drought-stunted crops to feed livestock struggling on scorched pastures. Ranchers are being forced to sell off parts or all their herds due to lack of water, hay, or other affordable feed sources.

Gov't aid goes to richest farmers

The government's response is in effect to come to the aid of the rich capitalist farmers at the expense of working farmers.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Michael Johanns announced recently that Washington would provide $780 million for drought assistance in South Dakota, including $700 million in subsidies for farmers producing corn and other grains and $50 million for livestock producers.

All these programs, however, tie compensation to the size or production levels of a particular operation. As a result, nearly half of the $23 billion in 2005 farm subsidies went to the wealthiest 5 percent of farmers and landlords.

The $50 million Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) benefits are to be spread over 748 eligible counties. This amounts to up to $2,000 per household, according to Al Guston, a farm news radio announcer and rancher in Bismarck, North Dakota. Guston told National Public Radio that in contrast local ranchers' feed bills alone will run $20,000 to $40,000.

Also LAP would only reimburse farmers whose line of credit allowed purchases of supplemental feed, watering operations, and livestock transport to greener pastures. Those lacking the financial resources are forced to sell off their herds.

Wheat farmer in Lamar, Colorado, inspects soil on his farm damaged by drought.

Frank Taylor, director of the Winston County Self-Help Cooperative in Mississippi, told the *Militant* that even though the drought has affected their members, including two who have been forced to scale down their herds, they won't be able to apply for assistance. He said three collection sites in their county received enough rain from isolated summer thunderstorms to deem farmers living there ineligible, even though adjacent counties qualified.

The government also uses narrow application windows to limit participation in aid programs. Agricultural officials in Alabama announced with two weeks notice that forms for LAP would be available October 2 with a close-out date for submission October 16. This coincides with the fall harvest when most working farmers are working sunup to sundown.

Government-subsidized crop insurance is no panacea for farmers, either. Most can only afford to insure a portion of their crop. Then when the farmer wants to make a claim, the insurer usually forces the farmer to harvest as much as possible despite the economic consequences of doing so.

In some cases, farmers are taking to the streets to demand government aid, as did 400 ranchers who demonstrated August 23 in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Australian gold mine company ignored warnings prior to rock fall that killed one miner, injured two

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia—On January 30, three months before a deadly mine disaster in northern Tasmania, Beaconsfield Gold, which owns the deep underground gold mine there, received an official report that sections of the mine were unstable, along with recommendations of measures the company could take to stabilize them.

But according to miners, these recommendations were not implemented in the section of the mine where three months later, on April 25, a massive rock fall killed Larry Knight and nearly took the lives of two other miners, Todd Russell and Brant Webb, who were entombed one kilometer underground for two weeks. A marathon rescue effort by fellow miners made international headlines as they finally freed the two trapped miners.

A confidential report from January was revealed in the October 7 *Australian*, a national daily, in a front-page article headlined "Mine had ample cave-in warning." The investigation was commissioned by mine bosses after a rock-fall last October near the subsequent fatal roof collapse. Work was suspended in the area for a time.

The report, by AMC Consultants geo-technical engineer Glenn Sharrock, said the damage to those sections of the mine "extends beyond the support capacity." Sharrock warned of "the potential… for further large and damaging seismic events" caused by mining activities and "unfavorable mine geometry." Sharrock recommended strengthened roof supports, such as six-meter cable bolts. The report also urged a new safer method of "checker-boarding," leaving larger un-mined layers between mine tunnels, "to reduce the chances" of "fault slip… in the future."

A company spokesperson denied that Beaconsfield did not implement all the report's recommendations, saying larger cone bolts were not "specifically recommended" for level 925 where the fatal fall occurred.

Some miners told the *Australian* that the size of floor separations had been reduced as the gold seam became richer. As a result, the vertical floor-to-floor distance was cut from 25 meters at higher levels of the mine to only 10 meters at the 925-meter level.

Mick Borrill, a drill operator who worked in that section, said mine managers ignored pleas by miners to leave support pillars in place, saying "there's too much gold there."

Mine owners refused to comment on the release of the report, claiming the matter was still before an inquiry and the coroner.

Alasdair Macdonald contributed to this article.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

November 6, 1981

The Federal Labor Relations Authority ruled October 22 that the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization should be decertified for the crime of going on strike.

Decertification means PATCO is not recognized as a union. The union is appealing the decertification.

PATCO is a member of the AFL-CIO. The decertification of the union and firing of 12,000 strikers is the biggest defeat in the twenty-six year history of the labor federation.

The air controllers union executive board announced October 28: "PATCO members have been locked out by their former employer and could not return to work even if so ordered. [When the Federal Aviation Administration ends the lockout] PATCO would immediately order all of its members to return to work."

A union spokesperson explained that the decision was reached as "a show of good faith before the appeals court" to win back the union's certification.

Reagan's Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis applauded the FLRA ruling: "It reaffirms…that the citizens of this country cannot be allowed to pick and choose the laws they obey."

November 5, 1956

All the recent capitalist propaganda about Western imperialism and colonialism being a thing of the past, a phenomenon of the 19th Century, has gone down the drain with the invasion of Egypt. There is nothing in the last century's long list of colonial wars and imperialist land-grabbing that is any cruder than the current British-French-Israeli war against Egypt.

The facts are plain: British and French imperialism in collusion with the Israeli government made plans for an armed attack on Egypt. British and French forces were concentrated on the nearby island of Cyprus which Britain holds only by a reign of terror. Israel began a total military mobilization. When everything was ready the Israeli army invaded Egypt, heading toward Suez…

The brutal aggression against Egypt and the slaughter that the imperialists have begun is motivated by imperialism's desire not only to control the profitable Suez Canal but to smash the mounting national independence movement of the Arab people which has been inspired by the nationalization of Suez.

November 7, 1931

The dramatic and gigantic convulsions of world capitalism are at present unfolding over a far vaster scene than that of Germany. All attention is converging on England. However, from the point of view of the revolution, the German field must not be lost sight of for a single moment. For the economic reserves of British imperialism are incomparably greater than those of Germany, which have been dilapidated and wiped out by the war….

Nevertheless, the internal situation in Germany is not devoid in important events these last few weeks. Above all, there is the reappearance of the National Socialists on the political arena, as expressed on the one hand, by their return to parliament and, on the other, by extra-parliamentary actions. Thus, on the Jewish New Year the National Socialists organized a veritable little pogrom, similar to their attack on the shop fronts last year. The measures taken against them are of no account, the ring leaders were not even summoned to court. We see therefore, that in view of threatening weather, the bourgeoisie is once more forced to utilize the National Socialists after discarding them for six months … it is obliged to consider once more seriously the prospect of Fascist arms.

Cuban media cover widely 7-city book tour

The Cuban press is giving wide coverage to the cross-island speaking tour to discuss and promote Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution *(in Spanish,* Nuestra historia aún se está escribiendo*).*

As of October 20, events had been held in Ciego de Ávila, Holguín, Bayamo, and Santiago de Cuba. With three meetings still to go—two in Villa Clara province, and the wind-up in Havana—the first four events had been covered by some 15 articles or broadcasts in Cuban newspapers and on radio and TV. In addition, portions of the Holguín meeting, including parts of the talks by Moisés Sío Wong, one of the generals interviewed in the book, and Mary-Alice Waters, the book's editor, were broadcast on prime-time Cuban national TV October 19, and again the next morning. The Ciego de Ávila meeting was also covered in a dispatch by China's news agency, Xinhua.

In addition to the media excerpted below, reports were carried over Radio Havana Cuba, Radio Bayamo, Radio Surco, and Aldia TV in Holguín.

Above, some of the Cuban media that have covered the seven-city tour to promote *Our History Is Still Being Written.*

From October 19 **Juventud Rebelde***, daily published by Union of Young Communists of Cuba.*

BY LUIS RAÚL VÁZQUEZ MUÑOZ

CIEGO DE ÁVILA—The book *Nuestra historia aún se está escribiendo*, containing the unpublished reminiscences of three Cuban generals of Chinese descent, was presented in Ciego de Ávila. This was the first in a series of launchings that will be held in Holguín, Granma [province], Santiago de Cuba, and Villa Clara.

The director of Pathfinder Press, Mary-Alice Waters, announced that the volume includes interviews done between 2002 and 2005 by a group of U.S. journalists with generals Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sío Wong. She added that one of the merits of the work, which was presented for the first time in the last [Havana] International Book Fair, is revealing the role of emigrants from the Asian giant in the struggles for Cuba's independence, a fact unknown in the world.

In its pages, she pointed out, the three military men tell of their participation in the revolutionary war against the Batista dictatorship, the early years of the Revolution, their actions in Angola and other internationalist missions, including the solidarity given to Venezuela....

For his part, Brigadier General Moisés Sío Wong, president of the Cuban-Chinese Friendship Association, stated his opinion that the appearance of this book is very necessary and will contribute to brotherhood between the two countries.

…[T]he presentation [was] held in the José Inda Hernández House of Culture.

❖

From Chinese News Agency ***Xinhua.***

HAVANA, Oct. 19, 2006 (Xinhua via COMTEX)—The book *Nuestra historia aún se está escribiendo* by the U.S. publisher Pathfinder Press, containing the reminiscences of three Cuban generals of Chinese descent, was presented in Ciego de Ávila, in the center of the island.... This work reveals the role of the Chinese emigration in the freedom struggles of the Caribbean nation, the daily *Juventud Rebelde* pointed out today. The three military men give accounts of their participation in the revolutionary war against the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista (1952–1958) and the early years of the Cuban Revolution, which triumphed in 1959. They also tell of their actions during the civil war in Angola (1976–1991) and other internationalist missions, including the solidarity given to Venezuela.

[Mary-Alice] Waters stated that the book has become one of the Pathfinder titles that has had the greatest impact in the United States, primarily in the Chinese community of more than two million persons....

Editora Política is preparing a Cuban edition, and the newspaper reported that work has begun on translating the book into Chinese.

❖

From October 18 **Invasor***, local newspaper in Ciego de Ávila.*

An article by Sayli Sosa Barceló reported that among the speakers was "Iraida Aguirrechu Núñez, editorial head of Editora Política, who announced that a Cuban edition of the title is being prepared, and General Moisés Sío Wong. Also attending were members of the Min Chih Tang Chinese Society of Ciego de Ávila, the Association of Combatants of the territory, and leaders of the political and mass organizations in the municipality."

❖

From interview in October 20 **Invasor**.

BY SAYLI SOSA BARCELÓ

On the occasion of the presentation of the book *Nuestra historia aún se está escribiendo* in Ciego de Ávila, Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, responded to some questions by *Invasor Digital*.

—What themes does your publishing house take up?

"We like to say that Pathfinder Press was born with the Russian Revolution, because those who came before us published communist literature in the United States. We try to publish the books, pamphlets, and magazines that U.S. working people need, and that is, above all, in order to get organized in a communist party, to do away with the imperialist-capitalist system in the world."

—Are North American youth interested in the literature Pathfinder publishes?

"There is considerable and growing interest, which is the most important thing. Concerning the Cuban Revolution, for example, they know it exists, but they don't know the truth about Cuba. They know what the government of my country says, but they're not familiar with the reality that the rulers don't want them to find answers in. The books we publish are among the few that really explain what the Cuban Revolution is and why the U.S. government is so ferocious toward the Cuban people...."

"Our publishing house maintains correspondence with the Five Cuban Heroes who are prisoners in U.S. jails. From the first years of their imprisonment we've maintained correspondence with some of the five imprisoned youth. We send them books when they ask us."

❖

From October 19 broadcast by ***Radio Reloj****.*

Nuestra historia aún se está escribiendo, an interview with three Cuban-Chinese generals, was presented last night in Holguín's Chinese community by the New York publisher Pathfinder Press.... General Moisés Sío Wong thanked Pathfinder Press for the work it is doing for Cuba, and gave the first signed copy to Miguel Díaz Canel, member of the Political Bureau and First Secretary of the Party in Holguín. *(Fabio Ochoa reporting)*

❖

From October 20 **Ahora***, local newspaper in Holguín. Also broadcast over* ***Radio Angulo****.*

Our History Is Still Being Written... was presented in the headquarters of Holguin's Association of Chinese Descendants with the attendance of one of its protagonists, general Moisés Sío Wong, and Mary-Alice Waters, publisher of the book and Pathfinder's president....

By reading this title [we] can also enlarge our knowledge about the Cuban Revolution and Cuba's role on its fight against colonialism and imperialism, added the U.S. editor...

General Sío Wong highlighted the Chinese presence during Cuba's wars against Spanish colonialism (XIX century), as well as in the last war that overthrew Fulgencio Batista's tyranny, the one ended with the people's victory of January the first, 1959....

Today [the book] is circulating in the United States and will be presented in different parts of the world during the coming November. It was said too a Canada tour for the presentation of the book in the early days of 2007 is being arranged.

❖

From October 20 **Ahora**.

BY MARÍA JULIA GUERRA

The book was presented in the Chinese quarter by one of its protagonists: General Moisés Sío Wong. He stated that it was being done in honor of Cuban Culture Day, and within the Camilo [Cienfuegos]-Che [Guevara] national day of activities....

At the presentation—which was at-

Continued on page 7

Study, Share, Promote...
Our History
is still being written
THE STORY OF THREE
CHINESE-CUBAN GENERALS IN
THE CUBAN REVOLUTION
ARMANDO CHOY ✦ GUSTAVO CHUI ✦ MOISÉS SÍO WONG

The story of three young rebels of Chinese-Cuban ancestry who threw themselves into the great proletarian battle that defined their generation. They became combatants in the clandestine struggle and 1956–58 revolutionary war that brought down a U.S.-backed dictatorship and opened the door to the socialist revolution in the Americas. Each became a general in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces. Also available in Spanish. $20

WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

Militant/ Martín Koppel

Gen. Moisés Sío Wong speaks at October 17 presentation of *Our History Is Still Being Written* at House of Culture in Ciego de Ávila. To his right are Iraida Aguirrechu of Editora Política and Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press. Back row, from left: Luis Chang, president of Min Chih Tang, the Association of Chinese-Cubans in Ciego de Ávila, and Elio Alvarez Puig, provincial president of Association of Combatants of Cuban Revolution.

Militant/ Martín Koppel

Min Chih Tang members opened program with Lion Dance and martial arts demonstration

Militant/ Martín Koppel

Students at the Camilo Cienfuegos Military School (*Camilitos)* at Pathfinder book table at the October 19 meeting on *Our History Is Still Being Written* in Bayamo, Cuba.

250 at Santiago event

Continued from front page

pal government building here that Fidel Castro, on Jan. 2, 1959, addressed the jubilant people of Santiago after the Batista dictatorship's forces had surrendered the city to the Rebel Army, sealing the final victory of the revolutionary war.

In addition to Sío Wong, speakers at the presentation included Iraida Aguirrechu of Editora Política, the publishing house of the Cuban Communist Party's Central Committee, and Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the book and president of Pathfinder Press.

Earlier in the week Sío Wong, Aguirrechu, and Waters had spoken at meetings in the cities of Ciego de Ávila, Holguín, and Bayamo. Gen. Armando Choy will speak at two similar events in Quemado de Güines and Corralillo, both in Villa Clara province. And all three authors—Choy, Sío Wong, and Gen. Gustavo Chui—will speak along with Aguirrechu and Waters at a meeting in Havana.

The initiative for the presentations came from the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution. The seven-city tour was hosted in each area by the municipal government and the Cuban Communist Party in the province. In addition to Santiago, in Holguín and Bayamo as well the first secretaries of the party, Miguel Díaz Canel and Lázaro Expósito, were introduced along with the presidents of the municipal assemblies and other government and party officials.

The Ciego de Ávila presentation was highlighted by the participation of more than 60 members of Min Chih Tang, the local Chinese-Cuban association. They opened the program with a performance of the Lion Dance and demonstrations of tai chi and martial arts. After the meeting, leaders of Min Chih Tang invited the speakers and other guests to their hall for a Chinese banquet they had prepared. The Holguín meeting also took place in the local Chinese cultural center, and Chinese-Cuban residents participated in the book presentations in every city.

In Bayamo, in the eastern province of Granma, the meeting was held in the patio of the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Museum—the house where the leader of the 1868 independence war against Spain, known in Cuba as "the father of the country," was born. Afterward the speakers and other guests joined hundreds of city residents as honored guests at an outdoor cultural gala held as part of the nationwide celebration of Cuban Culture Day.

More than 200 copies of *Our History Is Still Being Written*, along with other Pathfinder titles, have been snapped up by those attending the meetings, which have been widely covered by the Cuban media, both local and national, including television and radio.

Cuban media cover tour on 'Our History Is Still Being Written'

Continued from page 6

tended by Miguel Díaz, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba and First Secretary of the Party—General Sío Wong stressed the participation in Cuba's wars of independence of Lieutenant Colonel José Bu and Captain José Tolón, who fought in the three wars.

❖

From October 20 **La Demajagua***, local newspaper in Bayamo.*

BY RAYNOR AMAURY RIVERA LICEA

"The principal measure taken to eliminate discrimination against Chinese in Cuba was the Revolution," stated Brigadier General Moisés Sío Wong in presenting the book *Nuestra historia aún se está escribiendo* in the museum at the birthplace of the Father of the Country Carlos Manuel de Céspedes in Bayamo, capital of the eastern province of Granma....

Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the book and member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party of the northern nation, stressed its importance as "a weapon in defense of the truth about Cuba and its Revolution."

Attending the meeting were Lázaro Expósito Canto, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the Party in Granma; Juan González, vice president of the Government in the province; Iraida Aguirrechu, editorial director of Editora Política; and other personalities.

❖

From October 21 broadcast by ***Radio CMKC****, Santiago de Cuba.*

BY ELVIRA OROZCO VITAL

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Oct. 21, 2006—The presence of Chinese in Cuba before, during, and after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution is a topic told by three protagonists of Oriental features in the book *Nuestra historia aún se está escribiendo*, presented in the City Exhibition Hall of the Municipal Assembly of People's Power in Santiago de Cuba.

As part of the activities celebrating Cuban Culture Day, the Heroic City became one of the sites chosen to launch this publication of Editora Política. As stated by Iraida Aguirrechu, representative of the Communist Party of Cuba's publishing house, Santiago de Cuba was chosen not just because of the history amassed in each of the city's streets, houses, institutions, and parks. Rather, because here there are many families of Chinese descent who also have given their support to the revolutionary process on the island in different periods....

Speaking to intellectuals, artists, leaders of political and mass organizations and of enterprises and cultural and workers institutions, Sío Wong stressed that the virtue of *Nuestra historia aún se está escribiendo* resides in having penetrated into the belly of the beast—the United States—breaking through the distortions and the silence they try to impose on the truth about Cuba....

Attending the presentation were Misael Enamorado Dáger, member of the Political Bureau and first secretary of the Provincial Committee of the Party; and deputy Rolando Yero, president of the Provincial Assembly of People's Power here.

Map shows the seven Cuban cities where meetings to discuss and promote *Our History Is Still Being Written* were held as part of tour.

How working people in Korea pushed back Washington in 1950s war

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

"The American intervention in Korea is a brutal imperialist invasion," wrote James P. Cannon, then-national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, in an open letter to U.S. president Harry Truman in July 1950. Weeks earlier, Truman had sent the first of what would be 5.7 million U.S. troops cloaked in the blue flag of the United Nations to invade Korea. The struggle of the Korean people "is part of the mighty uprising of the hundreds of millions of colonial people throughout Asia against Western imperialism," wrote Cannon. "The colonial slaves don't want to be slaves any longer."

The partition of Korea imposed by U.S. imperialism half a century ago remains the most explosive unresolved national division in the world today.

In 1910, the rising imperialist Japan formally annexed Korea. The invaders stole land from thousands of peasants and suppressed the Korean language. They forced the now-landless peasants to serve in the Japanese army or labor in Japanese mines, construction sites, and munitions factories. By the end of World War II, 10 percent of Korea's population had been "relocated," against their will, to Japan. These included tens of thousands of Korean "comfort women"—sexual slaves in Japanese military brothels. Thousands of Koreans were killed for resisting Japanese domination.

Anti-colonial uprising

Coming out of World War II, the Korean people took advantage of the weakened position of their colonial occupier to deepen their struggle for national independence. "People's committees," uniting forces from the anti-colonial struggle and other popular movements, sprang up and began to assume control of both cities and rural areas. On Sept. 6, 1945, a new government with close links to the people's committees was formed in Seoul. It declared the country's independence from Japanese colonial rule. It also announced plans for a sweeping land reform, nationalization of major industry, universal suffrage for men and women over 18, an eight-hour workday, minimum wage, and democratic rights.

Two days later, the U.S. government landed troops commanded by Gen. Douglas MacArthur in Korea with the aim of blocking these anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist measures. MacArthur announced U.S. military control of the southern part of Korea and organized the occupation forces to brutally crush workers and peasants' organizations there. The U.S. forces imposed a military puppet government, which enforced all laws established by the Japanese occupiers. Among other measures, MacArthur declared English as the official language.

At the same time, workers and peasants in China were engaged in a revolutionary struggle against the dictatorial, capitalist regime of Chiang Kai-shek. With the invasion of Korea, Washington hoped not only to bring the entire Korean peninsula under its control but also to prevent the Chinese workers and peasants from removing the yoke of imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation there.

In carving up Korea, the U.S. government had the complicity of the bureaucratic regime in the Soviet Union, at that time headed by Joseph Stalin. Through a bloody reign of terror that overturned many of the gains of the October 1917 revolution led by the Bolsheviks, Stalin and a bureaucratic caste around him had usurped political power and driven working people in Russia out of politics. The Stalinist regime subverted revolutionary struggles around the world in order to defend its privileges and give itself more leverage to negotiate with capitalist powers as part of its policy of "peaceful coexistence" with imperialism.

But hundreds of thousands of Korean workers and peasants refused to go along with the deal. Between 1945 and 1950, nearly 100,000 Koreans who participated in strikes, peasants' protests, and armed resistance in the south were killed by U.S. and south Korean troops and government-sanctioned right-wing thugs. In the north, capitalist property relations were overturned, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was founded in September 1948.

In 1950 the Democratic Party administration of President Harry Truman launched the Korean War. Even though the war unfolded during the anti-communist witch hunt, it was unpopular among working people in the United States.

"This is more than a fight for unification and national liberation. It is a civil war," Cannon wrote in his letter to Truman. "On the one side are the Korean workers, peasants and student youth. On the other are the Korean landlords, usurers, capitalists and their police and political agents. The impoverished and exploited working masses have risen to drive out the native parasites as well as their foreign prosecutors."

In 1950, Truman said Washington, which had dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan five years earlier, would consider using "every weapon we have." Three years later, Republican president Dwight D. Eisenhower threatened to "remove all restraints in our use of weapons."

Pyongyang, the capital of north Korea, before (above) and after (left) Washington's bombing in Korean War.

'Nape scrapes'

While stopping short of using nuclear weapons, the U.S. military acknowledges dropping 250,000 pounds of napalm *per day* during the Korean War. The Korean estimates of U.S. napalm use are about three times higher. In addition, U.S.-led forces unleashed 428,000 "conventional" bombs on Pyongyang, which had a population of only 400,000 at the time.

In a 1997 interview, former U.S. Senator John Glenn, who was a Marine pilot in the war, described flying jets with "hundred gallon napalm tanks with the white phosphorous grenade cap on there, so that when it hit the ground…it would burst into flame and ignite the napalm." Such "nape scrapes" and other aerial bombs took out giant sections of the population, leaving those who survived permanently scarred with painful second-degree burns. Thousands of civilians, many of them south Korean refugees, were strafed during the bombing raids.

"There was hardly a single house left standing," recalled Yan Von Sik, a soldier in the Korean People's Army, in a CNN documentary. By the end of the war, the U.S. bombing command said it had no more targets left—it had destroyed all structures that could be seen from the air, including huts.

An estimated 4 million Koreans—some 13 percent of the population—were killed during the war, half of whom were civilians. An additional 5 million were left homeless. In addition, 132,000 Chinese volunteers who joined the war to aid their Korean brothers and sisters, were killed. Fifty-four thousand U.S. troops died during the three-year war, "a more lethal combat exchange than was the Vietnamese War," as Glenn put it.

Despite the massive destruction wrought by U.S. forces, the Korean and Chinese people refused to be beaten and fought Washington to a stalemate. In July 1953, the DPRK forced U.S. generals to sign an armistice agreement. The agreement divided the country at the 38th parallel and set up a 2.5-mile-wide "Demilitarized Zone" (DMZ) across the peninsula. Washington and Seoul have refused to sign a peace treaty in the five decades since U.S. imperialism was handed its first-ever military defeat.

As the Aug. 3, 1953, *Militant* noted, "There can be no possibility for a lasting peace in the Far East until the U.S. troops are withdrawn from Korea and brought home." To this day, 30,000 U.S. soldiers remain on Korean soil to keep the country divided. But working people on both sides of the 38th parallel have not been derailed in their struggle for reunification.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 3029A Bessemer Rd. Zip: 35208. Tel: (205) 780-0021. E-mail: swp@bham.rr.com

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4229 S. Central Ave. Zip: 90011. Tel: (323) 233-9372. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net **San Diego:** Tel: (619) 253-1396. E-mail: sdyoungsocialists@gmail.com **San Francisco:** 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 8365 NE 2nd Ave. #206. Mailing address: P.O. Box 380846. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-4436. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net **Tampa:** Tel: (813) 774-1059. E-mail: youngsocialists813@gmail.com

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 2791 Lakewood Ave. Zip: 30315. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515, Zip: 30321. Tel: (404) 768-1709. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 3557 S. Archer Ave. Zip: 60609. Tel: (773) 890-1190. E-mail: Chicagoswp@sbcglobal.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@qwest.net

MASSACHUSETTS: Amherst: 114 Rolling Green Dr. Zip: 01002. . Tel: (914) 466-6772. E-mail: AmherstYS@hotmail.com **Boston:** 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 695 Gullen Mall Apt. 408. Zip: 48360. Tel: (248) 860-9341. E-mail: youngsocialistsdetroit@gmail.com

MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 113 Bernard St. E, West St. Paul. Zip: 55118. Tel: (651) 644-6325. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Zip: 07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@optonline.net

NEW YORK: **Albany:** Tel: (518) 929-4786. E-mail:Young Socialists518@gmail.com **Manhattan**: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649.E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 225. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: PittsburghSWP @verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 869-6550. E-mail: swphouston@ sbcglobal.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3717 B Georgia Ave. NW, Ground Floor. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@speakeasy.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

ONTARIO: Toronto: 2238 Dundas St. W., #201, Postal code M6R 3A9. Tel: (416) 535-9140. E-mail: cltoronto@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

ICELAND

Reykjavík: Skolavordustig 6B. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavík. Tel: 552 1202. E-mail: kb-reykjavik@simnet.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauck@xtra.co.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@gmail.com

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-3855. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: Second Floor, 105 Hanover St. Postal code: EH2 1DJ. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cl.edinburgh@btinternet.com

EDITORIAL

Vote Socialist Workers in 2006!

Continued from front page

been campaigning to oppose U.S. threats against Iran and to demand an end to Washington's economic war on Cuba and to its course of aggression against Venezuela. They have championed independence for Puerto Rico from U.S. colonial rule.

These assaults, including the bloody Israeli war on Lebanon that Washington openly backed, are part of the U.S. rulers' "long war." This decades-long conflict has barely begun. The imperialist rulers will attack with particular ferocity those who refuse to bow to their dictates, like the working people of Cuba targeted for making the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

The imperialist wars abroad are an extension of the attacks by the bosses at home on the wages, pensions, health care, safety, and dignity of working people.

The SWP platform starts by extending support to struggles by workers to organize unions and mobilize union power to defend working people from the bosses' assaults. It calls for fighting for legislation to legalize all immigrants now. It says workers need a union to enforce safety. In order to defend the labor movement from the offensive by the employers and their twin parties, it calls for building a labor party, based on the unions, that fights in the interests of workers and farmers.

The SWP candidates have also campaigned for the political rights of all. The SWP campaign in Pennsylvania set an outstanding example, successfully challenging the state's "loyalty oath," which required candidates for public office to swear they are not "subversives." That victory for labor removed an obstacle to political activity by candidates like those on the SWP ticket who advocate revolutionary change: taking power from the handful of capitalist families in the United States and establishing a workers and farmers government.

Vote SWP! And join socialist candidates and their supporters to continue fighting for the same program after November 7!

Socialist Workers Party Candidates

Alabama	Clay Dennison, Governor Karl Butts, Commis. of Agriculture
California	Lea Sherman, U.S. Senate+ James Harris, Governor+ Chauncey Robinson, Sec'y of State Gerardo Sánchez, U.S. Cong., 8th CD Naomi Craine, U.S. Cong., 34th CD Michael Ortega, U.S. Cong., 35th CD David Arguello, U.S. Cong., 51st CD Joel Britton, San Francisco Bd. of Educ.*
Florida	Bernie Senter, U.S. Senate Omari Musa, Governor Margaret Trowe, U.S. Cong., 18th CD Eric Simpson, U.S. Cong., 17th CD Ruth Robinett, Fl. State Rep. Dist. 109
Georgia	William Arth, Governor Lisa Potash, Lt. Governor Eleanor García, U.S. Cong., 5th CD
Illinois	Dennis Richter, Governor Christian Castro, Lt. Governor Laura Anderson, U.S. Cong., 7th CD
Iowa	Diana Newberry, Governor* Kevin Dwire, Lt. Governor* Frank Forrestal, Sec'y of Agriculture Helen Meyers, U.S. Cong., 3rd CD*
Massachusetts	John Hawkins, Governor Laura Garza, U.S. Cong., 8th CD*
Minnesota	Rebecca Williamson, U.S. Senate Nelson Gonzalez, Governor Tom Baumann, Lt. Governor Tom Fiske, U.S. Cong., 4th CD Julian Santana, U.S. Cong., 5th CD
New Jersey	Angela Lariscy, U.S. Senate* Brian Williams, U.S. Cong., 13th CD*
New York	Róger Calero, U.S. Senate* Maura DeLuca, Governor* Ben O'Shaughnessy, Lt. Governor* Martín Koppel, State Att'y General* Willie Cotton, State Comptroller* Nancy Boyasko, U.S. Cong., 11th CD
Pennsylvania	Ved Dookhun, U.S. Senate Osborne Hart, Governor Tony Lane, Lt. Governor Cindy Jaquith, U.S. Cong., 14th CD John Staggs, Pa. State Rep. Dist. 198*
Texas	Amanda Ulman, U.S. Senate Steve Warshell, Governor Anthony Dutrow, U.S. Cong., 18th CD
Washington	David Rosenfeld, U.S. Senate
Wash., D.C.	Sam Manuel, Mayor María Sánchez, City Council Chair Seth Dellinger, City Council At-Large Janice Lynn, House Delegate

*Confirmed on ballot +official write-in

Washington tightens squeeze on north Korea

Continued from front page

in a way that it will really have teeth to it, and I think we are on the right track."

Just prior to Rice's arrival in Beijing, officials at four Chinese commercial banks announced they had stopped transactions with north Korea. China, north Korea's largest trading partner, provides 70 percent of the DPRK's food and fuel. Beijing began inspecting north Korean cargo at its border October 16.

In south Korea the results were more mixed. "You can't exactly say she [Rice] got south Korea's commitment on the Security Council resolution in the way she would have sought it," said Kim Sung-han of the south Korea–based Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security. Seoul did not agree to give up joint economic ventures with the north, despite Washington's pressures. Businessmen from north and south met in the northern border town of Gaesong October 20 to discuss moving ahead with a joint industrial park there.

U.S. and south Korean military officials also held a "Security Consultative Meeting" last weekend to discuss the position of the 30,000 U.S. troops in south Korea and the command of troops at the "De-Militarized Zone" dividing Korea. The joint communiqué from the meeting assured the "continuation of the extended deterrence offered by the U.S. nuclear umbrella." Under "extended deterrence" U.S. forces can use nuclear weapons to counter claimed nuclear threats to south Korea.

Some 4,500 people in Seoul protested Rice's arrival, calling for the lifting of the sanctions against north Korea. Two days later, 10,000 protested U.S.–south Korean trade talks in Sogwipo, south Korea.

In the United States, Democratic Party politicians have been criticizing the Bush administration from the right on north Korea, and much of the middle-class left is following suit. The Communist Party-USA, for example, has joined the Democrats in condemning the DPRK and blaming Bush's "failed policies" for "allowing" Pyongyang to pursue a nuclear program. Making no mention of the U.S. nuclear-armed warships in the waters surrounding Korea, an editorial in the October 20 *People's Weekly World*, which reflects the views of the CPUSA, said Pyongyang's test "inexcusably disregards the urgent need to banish nukes from the earth."

Revolutionary working-class organizations have taken a different stance. On October 22, Annalucia Vermunt sent a message on behalf of the Young Socialists and Communist League in New Zealand to the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, the youth organization of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Vermunt outlined Wellington's role in the U.S.-led campaign against the DPRK, adding: "We stand with you in your struggle for sovereignty.... Your stance for a non-nuclear and reunified Korea is in the interests of all working people around the globe. We demand all New Zealand, U.S., and other governments withdraw troops and weapons from the Korean peninsula."

SWP candidate for San Francisco school board: 'U.S. troops, arms out of Korea!'

BY GERARDO SANCHEZ

SAN FRANCISCO, October 18—Some 300 students at Lowell High School today heard Joel Britton, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for school board here, call for lifting the U.S.-crafted sanctions the United Nations Security Council had imposed on north Korea four days earlier and for withdrawing all U.S. troops and weapons from the Korean peninsula. Britton spoke as part of a panel of a dozen candidates running for the school board.

The U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and threats against Korea and Iran, the socialist candidate said, are "an extension of the assaults on the living and job conditions of working people at home." These attacks, he said, "include cuts in education."

Britton said SWP candidates "welcome the resistance by working people that points toward a solution, like the massive rallies to legalize all immigrants last spring. I marched on May 1 as I am sure some of you and members of your families did."

Most of the students who gathered for one morning class period in the school auditorium were Asian American. Senior Diana Suen, who is of Chinese descent and represents Lowell on the school board's Student Advisory Council, chaired the event.

After the candidates gave one-minute opening remarks, Suen took questions from the students, allowing 30 seconds for each answer. The first question was about each candidate's position on the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).

Britton said he was opposed to schools being tied to the U.S. military and called for immediate pullout of U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan and "U.S. hands off Korea!"

Militant/Robby Kopec

Socialist Workers candidate for San Francisco school board Joel Britton speaks at Balboa High School October 17. On right is James Calloway, a Democrat.

None of the other candidates addressed Washington's threats against north Korea. But in responding to the question on JROTC, a range of views were expressed.

Dan Kelly, a Democrat and the only incumbent running for another term, called for phasing out this pre-military training program. Jane Kim, one of three Green Party candidates for school board, said she was opposed to the Iraq war and favored ending JROTC in high schools. Kim-Shree Maufas, Green Party–endorsed candidate who is also backed by the African-American Democratic Club, said she supported her high school-age daughter belonging to JROTC but opposed repeated efforts by the Army to recruit her.

The night before the forum at Lowell, Suen was part of a panel of students who posed questions to the the school board candidates at a Balboa High School forum, sponsored by the Parent Teachers Association (PTA) and attended by 100 people.

At the PTA forum, Britton led off with an opening statement that called for "No to sanctions and acts of piracy" against Korea. He also rapped the recent denial of high school diplomas to tens of thousands of students who could have qualified but failed new "exit exams." He called for repealing the exit-exam law.

Other candidates commented on an "achievement gap" between many Blacks and Latinos and other students here. Kelly lamented "resegregation" of the schools. Britton called for affirmative action measures to combat the racist discrimination faced by African-American and immigrant youth.

At these forums, and at one sponsored by the League of Women Voters October 3, Britton called for defeating Proposition 85, a ballot measure that would amend the state constitution to require parental notification and a waiting period for minors seeking abortions.

Britton introduced students and others at these forums to the pamphlet *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform under Capitalism* by SWP national secretary Jack Barnes.

In the "Voter Information Pamphlet and Sample Ballot" registered voters are receiving by mail, the SWP candidate's statement says in part: "The most important education is that which prepares for the greatest battle ahead, the battle of workers and farmers to throw off the negative self-image the rulers teach us, to recognize that we are capable of taking power and organizing society in our interests."